



CT MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH COALITION

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Marijane Carey. I live in Hamden and am a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Consultant who manages the Connecticut MCH Coalition. This testimony is on behalf of the MCH Coalition, which is a representative group of health care providers, human service organizations, funders, and advocates working in concert with the state's maternal and child health population. The Coalition has over 190 members representing more than 78 organizations. It serves as a communication and networking vehicle for those working in the field of maternal and child health and advocates for health equity and the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities.

I am testifying today on the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget. On behalf of the MCH Coalition, I urge the committee to include funding for CT Baby Bonds in your final legislation.

CT Baby Bonds offers the state an opportunity to make an economic investment that also addresses income inequality and economic disparities. CT Baby Bonds is designed to help narrow the wealth gap by investing directly in children born into poverty and helping those individuals build wealth by using the funds for targeted eligible purposes that have been shown to provide opportunities and break the cycle of poverty, such as homeownership, education, entrepreneurship, and contributing toward retirement savings.

According to the recently released [US Congressional Joint Economic Committee: "Baby Bonds Promote Economic Opportunity and Drive Broad-Based Growth"](#), Baby Bonds are an opportunity to ensure that children start young adulthood with a nest egg that would allow them the freedom to pursue wealth-generating activities and increase their own economic opportunities. It would also strengthen the State's economy in the long term.

CT Baby Bonds is a wise economic investment that shows a long-term commitment to Connecticut's vulnerable children.

Thank you for your time and for your work. We sincerely hope you will include funding for CT Baby Bonds in your budget proposal.

Sincerely,
Marijane Carey, MSW, MPH